

New Raleigh Station Dedicated April 30 and Opening Soon

The City of Raleigh and the The N.C. Department of Transportation held a dedication ceremony on April 30 to celebrate the new Raleigh Station set to open in late May or early June. The current Raleigh Amtrak station will close once work is completed at the new Raleigh Union Station (RUS).

As construction wraps up in late May or early June, passengers should check their tickets and call 800-BY-TRAIN to ensure they go to the correct station. Additional information will also be posted on [NCByTrain.org](#) as it becomes available.

To make the transition from the current station to Raleigh Union Station as smooth as possible, there are some things you need to know.

Location

Current Station Address:

320 West Cabarrus St.
Raleigh, NC 27601

New Station Address:

510 West Martin St.
Raleigh, NC 27601
*(Effective late May/early June;
exact date to be announced)*

Passenger Drop-Offs

Drop off passengers in front of or beside RUS.
Enter from the intersection West and Martin Streets.

Parking

All parking at RUS is paid parking. Follow the signs directing you to short or long-term parking.

Short-Term & Disability Parking

Limited short-term and disability parking is available at the station. Enter from the intersection of West and Martin Streets. There is a two-hour limit. Parking costs \$1.25 per hour. Pay by credit card or coins.

Long-term Parking

Long-term parking is available across the street from RUS in The Dillon building deck located at 223 South West Street. When entering, take a ticket from the machine and have it ready when exiting. There is no attendant.

Parking costs \$2 per hour or \$18 maximum per day. (Credit card only upon exit.)

June Railroad Trivia Question:

See answer on page 5

Where was Raleigh's first Union Station located?
Who built the station and what year did it open?



Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard speaks to the crowd at the dedication ceremony for Raleigh Union Station on April 30.

Amtrak and NCDOT Offering Additional, Daily RGH-CLT Round Trip

Starting June 4, a fourth daily round trip will be offered between Raleigh and Charlotte. Tickets are on sale now at [NCByTrain.org](#). The new trains will be *Piedmont* #77 departing Raleigh at 3 p.m. and arriving in Charlotte at 6:10 p.m. and *Piedmont* #78 departing Charlotte at 7 p.m. arriving in Raleigh at 10:11 p.m.

(See full schedule on page 2.)

"According to passenger surveys the demand for additional service along the Raleigh – Charlotte corridor continues to grow," said Allan Paul, N.C. Department of Transportation Rail Division Deputy Director. "The new schedules that will go into effect on June 4 also respond to survey requests for earlier arrivals and latter departures in Charlotte and Raleigh.

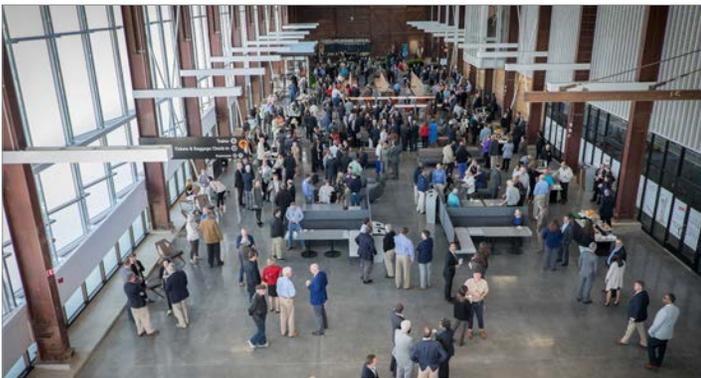
The *Piedmont* and *Carolinian* trains are sponsored by NCDOT and operated by Amtrak. Daily round trips from Raleigh to Charlotte are available, with stops in Cary, Durham, Burlington, Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury and Kannapolis.



Passenger drop off area

Piedmont/Carolinian Schedules (Effective June 4)

73 Piedmont	75 Piedmont	77 New Service	79 Carolinian	City	80 Carolinian	74 Piedmont	76 Piedmont	78 New Service
6:30 AM	10:00 AM	3:00 PM	5:16 PM	Raleigh, NC	10:05 AM	1:41 PM	6:26 PM	10:11 PM
6:42 AM	10:12 AM	3:12 PM	5:29 PM	Cary, NC	9:47 AM	1:23 PM	6:08 PM	9:53 PM
7:02 AM	10:32 AM	3:32 PM	5:55 PM	Durham, NC	9:27 AM	1:03 PM	5:48 PM	9:33 PM
7:38 AM	11:08 AM	4:08 PM	6:32 PM	Burlington, NC	8:46 AM	12:24 PM	5:09 PM	8:54 PM
8:03 AM	11:33 AM	4:33 PM	7:02 PM	Greensboro, NC	8:24 AM	12:03 PM	4:48 PM	8:33 PM
8:19 AM	11:49 AM	4:49 PM	7:18 PM	High Point, NC	8:02 AM	11:44 AM	4:29 PM	8:14 PM
8:53 AM	12:23 PM	5:23 PM	7:52 PM	Salisbury, NC	7:28 AM	11:11 AM	3:56 PM	7:41 PM
9:09 AM	12:39 PM	5:39 PM	8:09 PM	Kannapolis, NC	7:10 AM	10:55 AM	3:40 PM	7:25 PM
9:40 AM	1:10 PM	6:10 PM	8:42 PM	Charlotte, NC ET	6:45 AM	10:30 AM	3:15 PM	7:00 PM



On April 30, hundreds of people celebrated the dedication of Raleigh's new Union Station that will open in late May/early June.



View of Raleigh Union Station and track facing north

Long Branch Rail-Trail Opens in Winston-Salem



Deputy Secretary of Multi-Modal Transportation Julie White (far left) joins Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines, Graydon Pleasants, Executive Director of Wake Forest Innovation Quarter and other dignitaries cut the ribbon for the Long Branch Rail-Trail.

On April 11 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of the new Long Branch Rail-Trail in downtown Winston-Salem. The 1.7-mile paved bicycle and pedestrian trail utilizes part of the Rail Division's R-Line rail corridor, and connects with the city's extensive greenway system. The Rail Division and Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation purchased the corridor from Norfolk Southern in February 2006 as part of NCDOT's Rail Corridor Preservation Program. Wake Forest Innovation Quarter (WFIQ) is redeveloping eight city blocks that adjoin the rail corridor. WFIQ has repurposed the former RJ Reynolds buildings and transformed them into modern high-tech research laboratories, classrooms and residences.

NCDOT and Railroads Partner to Complete Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Signalization Safety Improvements during the First Quarter of 2018



School Street Crossing, Garysburg

NCDOT Rail Division worked with the railroads to complete almost \$1.6 million of highway-rail grade crossing signalization safety improvements between January and March 2018. Funding for 90 percent of the cost of these improvements was provided through the Federal Highway Administration's Section 130 program which provides funds for the elimination of hazards at highway-rail crossings.

Completed signalization safety improvements included the installation of flashing lights, gates and bells along roadways to



Wafford Road near Southmont

alert travelers of a train approaching an at-grade crossing. These improvements were completed with CSX Transportation at School Street in Garysburg, Olivers Grove Road near Four Oaks and NC 72 near Pembroke.

Improvements were made at Wafford Road near Southmont with the Winston-Salem Southbound Railroad. Advanced traffic control warning signs and pavement markings were included at each location to bring these critical devices up to current standards.

FRRCSI Funds Improve Laurinburg and Southern Railroad

This April members of the NCDOT Rail Planning Unit met with the Laurinburg and Southern Railroad (LRS) to review completed and pending state-funded infrastructure improvement projects and to discuss future maintenance needs. Founded in 1909, the Laurinburg and Southern Railroad is one of North Carolina's oldest short line railroads. Spanning from Raeford to Laurinburg in Scotland County, the 28-mile short line railroad interchanges with CSXT and offers freight service to several industries of regional significance. The LRS hauls an average of 5,800 carloads annually.



In 2014 and 2015, NCDOT provided more than \$200,000 in matching Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvements (FRRCSI) funds to rehabilitate and upgrade track on the LRS mainline and within its rail yard. The LRS contribution is more than \$200,000 to the projects.

In FY2017, NCDOT will provide approximately \$750,000 in matching FRRCSI funds to repair bridges at five locations, replace cross and switch ties. LRS will also spend nearly \$750,000. These ongoing efforts improve the safety, efficiency and capability of rail operations, while continuing to strengthen the viability of the LRS rail line for years to come.



FRRCSI track and switch upgrades on the LRS

Former Warehouse to become Major Transload Facility on the Piedmont and Northern Railroad

The Piedmont and Northern Railroad (PNRW) is owned by the NCDOT Rail Division. This 11.5 mile railroad runs from Gastonia where it connects with Norfolk Southern and to Mt. Holly where it connects to CSXT.

This April, members of the NCDOT Rail Planning Unit met with Capital & Major Projects for Progressive Rail, Inc., the parent company of PNRW, to discuss an upcoming FRRCSI-funded project. Work has begun to transform a former Weyerhaeuser warehouse, located at 601 North Modena Street in Gastonia, into a major transload facility. NCDOT will contribute up to \$920,000 in matching FRRCSI funds towards the project and the PNRW will contribute \$3.82 million. The project includes the installation of significant rail infrastructure to support the new transload operation (4,700 feet of track on the site). The site will allow for dramatic growth in carload volumes from the current less than 200 annual carloads to a projected 1,500 within the first year of operation. Progressive Rail is known nationally for its excellent customer service.

NCDOT is pleased to partner with PNRW on this project which will serve Gaston County and the Metrolina area.



Former Weyerhaeuser warehouse to become PNRW Transload Site

NCDOT and the Carolina Coastal Railroad Make Safety Improvements at Crossings

NCDOT Highway Division 2, the Rail Division and the Carolina Coastal Railroad worked together to deliver improved surfaces at two highway crossings in Greene County. Friendship Church Road and Wilson Street crossings had asphalt that was cracking and deteriorating with potholes forming. This provided a rough and unsafe surface for motorists. Both were replaced with new rubber rail seal and asphalt surface treatments, providing a much smoother ride.



Friendship Church Road before improvements



Friendship Church Road after improvements



Wilson Street before improvements



Wilson Street after improvements

Largest Class Ever at NC Volunteer Host Training

On Saturday, April 14, 40 volunteers attended a training session at Capital Yard focusing on proper train host etiquette, railroad safety, and becoming familiar with NCDOT Rail Division equipment. The class was taught by NCTHA officers, Customer Service Manager Alison Boswell, and Rail Deputy Director Allan Paul.

Trainees must make two qualifying trips with an experienced Host for evaluation and then voted in by the Association Board Members. The train host dispatchers in Raleigh and Charlotte have commented that many of the new trainees are eager to get their qualifying trips completed as soon as possible.

The Volunteer Train Hosts serve as North Carolina's goodwill ambassadors on the NCDOT supported trains and in the stations. North Carolina's program has been in operation since 1990, and is the only program of its kind in the nation.



Deputy Director Allan Paul leads training

Ridership & Revenue on NC By Train Service – Feb. 2018 vs. 2017

	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2018	2017	% +/-	2018	2017	% +/-
<i>Piedmont</i>	10,701	10,847	-1%	\$248,272	\$233,240	6%
<i>Carolinian</i>	15,972	17,402	-8%	\$953,785	\$1,017,214	-6%

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Hours Volunteered by N.C. Train Hosts in February, supporting NC By Train onboard and at events

There were no service modifications or annulments impacting *Piedmont* or *Carolinian* Trains in Feb. 2018. Average gasoline prices remained low in Feb. 2018 but were \$0.28 per gallon higher than in Feb. 2017. The higher price of gasoline makes the use of rail service even more attractive.



June Railroad Trivia Answer:

The first Union Station was located on South Dawson Street across from Nash Square. It was built by the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad in 1890.

